

IN HONOR OF JUDITH WEST

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy West, an outstanding New Yorker, on the occasion of her retirement from Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians.

Judy West has had a long and successful career serving as Director of Public Relations and Legislative Affairs for Local 802 since 1983. Her contributions to the Labor movement in particular, and to society as a whole, have been exemplary and set the standard to which we should all rise.

As an outspoken advocate for all working people, Judy has fought to ensure that Labor's agenda is always at the top of every elected official's list. From her work on exposing the abuses of farm labor in New York State to highlighting the particular concerns of musicians and other performing artists, her persistence and determination on behalf of these causes have become her trademarks.

In addition to her myriad endeavors on behalf of labor, Judy has also devoted her energies to the struggle for civil rights, affordable housing and decent health care for all. She has been so committed because she believes that as a citizen it is her duty to create a more just society for all. Through her unstinting devotion of time and generous use of talents, Judy West has become recognized as one of the most effective advocates of our time.

Mr. Speaker, Judy West may be officially retiring from her job, but I know that she will continue making outstanding contributions in the service of society. Her leadership will be missed, however, she and her family will have the opportunity to spend more time together. I join with all working people in thanking Judy for her tireless advocacy, personal commitment to our community and for her friendship.

IN HONOR OF NICK A. ANDRIOTIS,
PAST PRESIDENT OF THE SAINT
DEMETRIOS CATHEDRAL PARISH
COUNCIL AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF
THE ST. DEMETRIOS SCHOOL
BOARD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Nick A. Andriotis, the former president of the Parish Council at the Saint Demetrios Cathedral and Co-Chairman of the St. Demetrios School Board in Astoria, Queens, New York. Mr. Andriotis will receive this year's Odyssey Award from the Cathedral in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the church. The award will be presented at the church's 73rd Anniversary celebration this month.

Mr. Andriotis has been a tireless activist for the entire Greek-American community of Astoria through his work with the Hellenic Cultural Center and the St. Demetrios School System. He has served as a strong advocate for the preservation of the Greek Orthodox

faith, as well as for Greek culture, traditions, and the Greek language. He is the founder of the St. Demetrios High School, which is the direct product of his vision, determination, and enthusiasm. In fact, the new high school building became a reality due to Mr. Andriotis's valiant efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud to have such a community-oriented leader and visionary working to improve the lives of the many Greek and Greek-American residents of New York. This year's Odyssey Award will honor a worthy man and a diligent and faithful member of the Greek-American community. I congratulate Mr. Andriotis on his award and his many years of community service and I am confident that the selfless dedication he has demonstrated toward his friends and neighbors will continue through the work of the Saint Demetrios Cathedral.

MOVIE MAKERS RESPOND WEAKLY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to read the following editorial, from the October 9, 2000, edition of the Norfolk Daily News. This editorial highlights the insufficient answers from the film industry about targeting younger audiences with inappropriate film content.

[From the Daily News, October 9, 2000]

MOVIE MAKERS RESPOND WEAKLY

CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN PRODUCES LESS THAN SATISFACTORY ANSWERS BY INDUSTRY

The movie industry's responses to congressional concern about targeting younger audiences with inappropriate film fare is unsatisfactory. The practice of using young test audiences is reprehensible.

While Jack Valenti, the veteran political operative who speaks for the Motion Picture Association of America, promised the industry would change the objectionable practice, it is not enough. Ratings ought to change and entertainment ought to be lifted from the gutter.

Mr. Valenti did say that "inappropriate" targeting of children for R-rated movies would stop. That practice has found some filmmakers attempting to appeal to youngsters whose age would disqualify them from viewing.

The Internet figures in this problem as well. For the industry's teen Web sites can be utilized, and there were no promises that marketing of R-rated films would be entirely barred from them.

The president of Sony, parent company of Columbia Pictures, termed the marketing of a violent PG-13 film to a younger audience "a judgment lapse." It would more properly be called a stupid error demanding far more prompt attention than it received. That company is far from alone, however.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, expressed the sentiment of many Americans when she responded to the recent testimony from film executives: If the industry doesn't take steps to keep violent films away from young children, she said, "you're going to see some kind of legislation." There are others who feel just as strongly about the portrayals of casual sex and use of obscene language as they do about gratuitous violence.

The legislative powers seem limited, however, even though the Supreme Court has in-

dicted "community standards" can be allowed to prevail in the contests between pornography and free expression, especially where young people are concerned.

In this situation, with movie complexes overbuilt and family movie nights rare, a rational reaction would find the industry doing all it could to tell interesting stories with at least a little less violence and graphic sex. It was possible in the earlier days of television and films.

The industry ought to find a way to reverse the trend toward coarseness and crudity. It could start by raising its standards, revising its inaccurate and unreliable ratings, and leaving more to the viewers' imaginations.

THE FIREARMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SAFETY ACT OF 2000

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss legislation I introduced just before the August recess, H.R. 5012, the Firearms Research and Development Safety Act of 2000. This legislation would enhance the research and development tax credits permitted to firearms businesses to accelerate and explore further what has been termed as Smart Gun Technology, or as some prefer to call it, "Firearm Personalization Technology." In fact, at a later date, I intend to amend the legislation in committee to reflect that terminology.

My proposal increases the research and development tax credit, determined under the applicable rules of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (which is usually 20%), to 30% for smart gun technology research and development. It also quantifies this benefit is only available to federal firearms licensees, and it is not available for use on monies received in the form of a grant. Additionally, the base used to determine allowable expenses for the credit is at 100% of a firm's, corporation's, or individual's expenditures for the years 2001, 2002, and 2003, instead of the incremental increase as under current procedure.

These enhancements are intended to do exactly what ought to be done in terms of encouraging innovation and development in safety technology for firearms. That is, the marketplace ought to determine these innovations, and ultimately their acceptance by consumers, law enforcement, and, indeed, even the military in some cases.

The role of the government ought not be to mandate the use of this technology, but rather to encourage and foster its development. Regrettably, much has been said about "Smart Gun," or "Firearm Personalization," technology, and the panacea some claim it to be in preventing unauthorized access to firearms by felons, violent individuals, or other persons who should not have access to a firearm. The truth is, there are many different approaches to safe gun storage, any of which may be valid depending on the particular circumstances faced by the owner or authorized user.

Mandating the integration of an internal locking system in a firearm is simply not going to prevent determined individuals from gaining